

September 5, 1988--Labor Day

Dear Mom,

If you've been paying any attention to the news you already know that we San Diegans are suffering through one of the worst heat waves in our history. Strong Santa Ana winds off the desert have pushed our usually-protective marine layer of clouds far out over the ocean leaving us at the sun's mercy. I don't handle weather like this very well at all. I feel like a wilted flower. It got so bad yesterday (107 degrees) that I took shelter at Leigh's place. He has central air conditioning with 3 or 4 kinds of air filters which clean the air as well as cooling it. What a relief! I spent the day from about noon on, just reading and relaxing. He had a few friends over in the evening for the screening of the movie "Dune"--a science fiction thriller. So I stayed for that and got home about midnight when temps were down to the 70's.

Today has been a little bit better, so I've kept all the doors and windows closed, and the drapes pulled and toughed it out. I thought I'd better stay home and try to catch up on some of my huge backlog of work--namely correspondence. I've had scores of thank-you notes to get out to people who sent money to the Archives for my birthday tribute (Over \$1400 came in) and also to people who sent money to sponsor me in the San Diego Walks for Life this year. The walk-athon was held last weekend and was the biggest we've ever had. I was an honorary chairperson for the event (see clipping). Gordon Thompson (plays Adam on "Dynasty") was our special guest again this year. Over \$100,000 has been raised so far but we are a far cry from our projected goal of \$200,000.

The work of handling archival materials would be more than a full-time job all by itself. But if the project is to survive, I've got to also work on public relations and fund-raising, and volunteer recruitment and training. So it's busy, busy, busy all the time and I still feel like I'm falling further behind every day. That's why taking a few days off to escape the heat is even more frustrating.

In addition, I'm redecorating my apartment. Next month the landlord is going to completely re-paint and re-carpet my place. I replaced my double bed with a twin size to give me more room there and make space for an additional bookcase to hold archive materials and supplies. I've taken that set of four bird engravings down from the living room wall and will probably donate to a fund-raising auction for the Archives next spring. I've replaced them with a couple impressionist lithographs that I purchased years ago but only just had framed. The old brick-and-board book case is gone forever, replaced with a new oak cabinet that holds the old TV and a new VCR. I sold my stamp collection at a terrible loss, and used the money to help finance all of these changes. I had lost interest in the collection and it was just taking up too much space. Of course, you know how it is. Once you start making changes, you get the "might-as-wells". "Now that I'll replaced this, I might as well change that..." And so it goes.

Well, the Lord willin' and the creek don't rise, I'll be in Washington, D.C. for the weekend of October 7-9 for the two-day display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. We expect to display it outdoors on the mall between the Washington Monument and the Capitol Building, covering an area equivalent to five football fields. This

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should be a spectacular event, and I will be very proud to be among the thousands of volunteers from all over the nation who will help make it possible. I hope that you will be able to come to Washington to see the Quilt in its entirety (since you had such an unsatisfactory viewing of it when it was in Baltimore) and to see me (as I will not have the time to visit Baltimore). I've already discussed this with Gail, and she plans to attend.

I guess that's most of the news from here. I hope that the weather there is being kinder to you than usual, and that your health is good. Please take good care of yourself and write when you can find time.

Love,
Bob